

During my years in the Florida State Senate, I worked closely with Karin when she was Vice President of Protect America's Children in passing the Jennifer Act. This legislation, which I sponsored and became law in 1997, makes any credible threat or attempted assault of a minor 16 years of age and under a third degree felony.

In 1982 Karin and her husband found out that they were expecting their fifth child. The doctors also handed Karin a life-threatening diagnosis of Arterial Vinous Malformation on the left side of her brain. Karin and her son survived and one year after giving birth, she successfully overcame more than nine hours of brain surgery. She does not see her handicap as an ailment; on the contrary, it motivates her to continue serving the community and working for children.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Karin Brown, a woman who lives her life with courage, a will to live, and a genuine passion to serve others.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, National Projects; Innovation and Improvement

Entity Requesting: Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009

Description of Earmark: \$26 million is provided to Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF). RIF is one of our nation's oldest and largest children's literacy organizations. RIF partners with thousands of schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations and corporations throughout our country and provides millions of underserved children with free books and reading encouragement from over 20,000 locations. Over the past 4 decades, RIF has provided books to more than 300 million children. RIF encourages reading both inside and outside of school by allowing youngsters to select books to keep at home.

RIF's Inexpensive Book Distribution Program: This program provides books for low-income children and youths from infancy to high school age and supports activities to motivate them to read, through aid to local nonprofit groups and volunteer organizations.

Spending Plan: Nearly 89 percent of RIF's 2007 federal funds were used to purchase books and RIF was able to use this as leverage to raise an additional \$8.6 million from local communities to support book ownership. With the help of Congress, RIF was able to provide more than 16 million books to 4.6 children last year.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCE- MENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Goodlatte Amendment and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this harmful amendment.

While I strongly support the FLAME Act, I am opposed to this amendment because it would undermine current protections for forest workers as well as preventing proper environmental review of projects. It would do this by dramatically expanding existing good neighbor authority that only applies to certain projects on National Forests in Colorado and Utah right now.

Specifically, this amendment would waive provisions of the National Forest Management Act protecting taxpayer interests. It would give discretion over projects on National Forests to state foresters, eliminating federal oversight and accountability, and it would limit the public's knowledge of when timber is sold.

I am also concerned that the amendment, if successful, would put into question federal labor standards and current wage protections for forest workers.

My subcommittee held a hearing last year which shined a light on how pineros, literally men of the pines, were not being adequately compensated or paid for their work under existing law. Delegating this to the state or some subcontractor or the state without assurances for workers is foolish.

Directly to this issue, the GAO released a report yesterday recommending caution on allowing broader authority until the federal government could ensure greater "transparency, competition, and oversight."

I agree with the GAO and believe that this amendment is just too broad and would waive too many existing laws that protect workers and the environment.

In sum, I want to voice my strong support for the FLAME Act, which will enable our public lands agencies to finally get ahead of the vicious cycle of budget-consuming catastrophic fires, and begin the process of working to protect communities and restore the nation's lands. I urge opposition to this amendment and support for the underlying bill.

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H. Res. 273 and a co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to celebrate the 188th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Against incredibly difficult odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history to win their independence.

Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army.

The Bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child.

Bishop Germanos's message to his people was clear: a new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside Greece and Cyprus.

Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called Little Athens because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood.

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along with many cultural events and private gatherings.

These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic-American community's many contributions to our nation's history and culture.

I am also pleased that President Obama is continuing the tradition of holding a White House celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day.

My fellow co-chair Representative BILIRAKIS and I sent a letter last month urging the President to recognize this truly important day.

Relations between the United States and Greece remain strong with a shared commitment to ensuring stability in southeastern Europe. I hope permanent solutions can be found for ending the division of Cyprus and finding a mutually agreeable name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Additionally, I strongly support the inclusion of Greece in the Visa Waiver Program. Greece is the only member of the original fifteen European Union nations not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program.

I, along with my colleagues, will continue to work to ensure that the process for Greece's entry into the Visa Waiver Program continues to move forward.

Additionally, I have recently reintroduced legislation which urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

It is time for this suppression of religious freedom to come to an end and for Turkey to move in the direction of freedom and democracy.

I ask the nation to join me in celebrating Greece's independence.

Additionally, it is my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic-American community for its many contributions to our city and nation.

"Zeto E Eleftheria!" (Long Live Freedom!)

A TRIBUTE TO TRACYE RAWLS-MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tracye Rawls-Martin.

Tracye Rawls-Martin, proud daughter of Henry Sr. and Shirley M. Rawls, wife of Arnold V "Woody" Martin, stepmother to Brittney D. Clarence and "Nana T" to Woody's oldest daughters' son, Charles Lovell 3rd.

Tracye Rawls-Martin, MS ATC is a Certified Athletic Trainer and one of 5 African American Athletic Training Education Program Directors in the United States. She is "mother," advisor and professor to more than 16 Athletic Training Students within the BS/MS Degree Program in Athletic Training & Sports Sciences at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus. She began her academic career as a Dance Education major and progressed to a Pre-Physical Therapy major and finally fell in love with an Athletic Training major. After completing two semesters in the Pre-Physical Therapy program at Kingsborough Community College, she decided it was time to move on to a more exciting and productive field—the field of Athletic Training and Sports Sciences. The field of Athletic Trainers was made for her because it is designed for Health Care Professionals who specialize in prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that occur to athletes and the physically active. All Certified Athletic Trainers must have at least a bachelor's degree in athletic training, which is an allied health profession, must pass a comprehensive exam before earning the ATC credential, must keep knowledge and skills current by participating in continuing education and must adhere to standards of professional practice set by a national certifying agency.

The combination of dance education & athletic performance was a winning combination for her personality because she loves helping people, teaching, watching and participating in sports. In addition to nurturing her students through academic requirements for the program, she has had the honor and privilege of working with over 1000 athletes worldwide; high school, junior college, division one collegiate athletes, semiprofessional and professional. Her current responsibilities as Director of Athletic Training Education Programs at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus include teaching (18 credit hours teaching a variety of sports medicine topics which include risk management, injury prevention, orthopedic examination & diagnosis, medical conditions and disabilities, acute care of injuries and illnesses, therapeutic modalities, conditioning,

rehabilitation exercise and pharmacology, psychosocial intervention and referral, nutritional aspect of injuries and illnesses and health care administration), administrative (direct and administer BS/MS Degree Program and Advanced Master's Degree program in Athletic Training and Sports Sciences, maintain guidelines and standards set forth by the accrediting agency, work with the Clinical Coordinator to establish and maintain affiliations, conduct and publish research/ scholarly activities in areas of expertise, advise students, develop and implement internal/external marketing strategies for the Athletic Training Education Programs, assist in the recruitment of faculty, continue to encourage good citizenship and professional conduct among all students and faculty so as to promote the best interest of athletic trainers, maintain continuing education credits, participate/coordinate and conduct committees within the Division, School of health Professions, the University and the Brooklyn Committee), service (active member with the local, regional and national athletic training organizations, Athletic Training Students Club/Members and Faculty noted on national website, Instructor for American Heart Association, Book Reviewer for Lippincott Williams and Wilkin publishing company, participant in several health events for children, i.e. TEAM L.I.U.-Teenagers Educated About Asthma Management).

In addition, Tracye Rawls-Martin is an entrepreneur and a top executive for one of the world's largest direct selling telecommunications providers. On a part time basis she has reached the first earned executive position in the company. She is well on her way to helping hundreds and thousands of individuals achieve financial freedom and continue to live out their life long dreams whether it is to have more time with their families or to explore the beaches of the world.

Tracye will continue to pursue her passions and would like to contribute her success to the Lord, her family and her students. She will not rest until she has fulfilled her life's long mission—to take care of children of all ages, to feed them, clothe them, teach them and love them; in the end to develop a place they can call home and a place they can always return to a "University for Children."

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JITEN SHAH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jiten Shah for his service to western Kentucky. He has effectively served as the Executive Director of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) since 1987, where he has worked to create economic opportunity for this mostly rural region.

Recently, Federal Computer Week recognized Mr. Shah as one of the magazine's Federal 100 of 2009. This award recognizes the top executives from government, industry, and academia who had the greatest impact on the government information systems community in 2008.

Mr. Shah was the driving force for the creation of ConnectGRADD, Inc., a regional broadband internet network. This extraordinary

enterprise brought affordable, high-speed wireless Internet to a rural seven county region, which is larger than the state of Delaware. Mr. Shah developed the plan and built the coalition of support to make this project a reality.

By providing a united vision and strong advocacy, Mr. Shah helped level the playing field for the 212,000 residents of these seven counties. Now, this region is in a better position to spur economic development and entrepreneurship among its residents.

Mr. Shah's outstanding effort is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Mr. Shah for his commitment to the people of western Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY BROOKS

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Supervisor Leroy Brooks from my home state of Mississippi. Supervisor Brooks will be celebrating 25 exceptional years of committed public service.

Mr. Brooks has served as a Supervisor in Lowndes County, Mississippi for the past 25 years. During that time he has dedicated his efforts to improve the quality of life for the people of Lowndes County. He is the longest serving Supervisor in Lowndes County history, and I wish to thank him for his career and dedication to our great state of Mississippi and the Lowndes County community. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Brooks for this accomplishment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the County of Sullivan in New York State on the occasion of its Bicentennial. I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing this milestone, and I am proud to join the residents of Sullivan County in commemorating this significant anniversary.

Created from neighboring Ulster County on March 27, 1809, Sullivan County was named in honor of American Revolutionary War leader, Major General John Sullivan. Since that time, Sullivan County's natural beauty and abundance have greatly influenced its development. Early settlers focused their efforts on tapping the generous natural resources of the region and building vibrant timber, bluestone, and tanning industries. These early commercial activities were replaced by growing agriculture and tourism sectors starting in the mid-Nineteenth Century. Sullivan County also served as an important transportation corridor and link between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. Transportation projects such as the Newburgh-Cochection Turnpike, the Delaware & Hudson Canal, and the New York & Erie Railroad helped to develop the region and fuel the expansion of metropolitan New York seventy miles to the County's south.